

Message Text

SECRET

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 103409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, IS, XZ, XF

SUBJECT:ISRAELI ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: USUN 1214

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. AMBASSADOR HERZOG'S RATHER LENGTHY PRESENTATION
ON AFRICA HAS THE APPEARANCE OF AN INSTRUCTED DEMARCHE.
WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO REPLY TO HIM,
MAKING CLEAR THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION TO HIS VIEWS. SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON
FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO REVIVE
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ITS DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN AFRICA AND WILL CONTINUE
TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE TO
SUPPORT ISRAEL'S EFFORTS TO THIS END. WE ENTIRELY
AGREE THAT INCREASED ISRAELI INFLUENCE IN AFRICA
WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE WEST, AS WELL AS TO ISRAEL.

-- SECRETARY KISSINGER COMMITTED HIMSELF TO FOREIGN

MINISTER ALLON IN SEPTEMBER 1975 TO MAKE A PERSONAL EFFORT WITH MODERATE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. THE US

MADE A NUMBER OF INITIAL DEMARCHES AND THE SECRETARY UNDERTOOK TO FOLLOW UP PERSONALLY DURING HIS VISIT TO THE CONTINENT.

-- AMBASSADOR HERZOG MAY RECALL THAT JUST PRIOR TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AFRICAN TRIP THE ISRAELIS INVITED SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO ISRAEL ON A VISIT WHICH BECAME PUBLIC AND ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. AS A RESULT, THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF IN AFRICA WERE UNDERCUT, ALTHOUGH WE WERE STILL ABLE TO GAIN A HEARING IN SUCH PLACES AS ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND ZAIRE.

--WE HAVE FOUND GREAT RESIDUAL AFFECTION IN AFRICA FOR ISRAEL. NEVERTHELESS, ISRAEL'S HIGHLY VISIBLE LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO BREAK RANKS.

-- ONCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENES, THE ATMOSPHERE MAY BE SUCH AS TO PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ISRAEL TO IMPROVE ITS DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN THE CONTINENT. AS THAT OCCURS, THE US WILL DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO SUPPORT ISRAEL.

-- UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, ISRAEL MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ITS POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITED BY THE SECRET

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CONTINUED ASSUMPTION THAT IT HAS AN ONGOING ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

-- CONSEQUENTLY, THE STEP ISRAEL COULD TAKE WHICH WOULD BEST FACILITATE THEIR -- AND OUR -- EFFORTS TO RESTORE ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH AFRICA WOULD BE TO PUBLICLY DECLARE ITS ADHERENCE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S VOLUNTARY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA; OR IN SOME OTHER CONVINCING MANNER

DISPELL THIS WIDESPREAD ASSUMPTION. SHORT OF THIS, UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE SEE LITTLE HOPE FOR ISRAEL TO OVERCOME ITS DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION IN AFRICA.

2. FYI ONLY: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FIRST SIX ISRAELI PATROL BOATS EQUIPPED WITH GABRIEL SHIP-TO-SHIP MISSILES ARE PRESENTLY BEING DELIVERED TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT SOUTH AFRICANS ARE TRAINING IN ISRAEL TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THESE

VESSELS. END FYI.

CHRISTOPHER

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